

### REMARKS

The Official Action rejects Claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, page 2 of the Official Action indicates that independent Claims 1, 11, 17 and 25 "do not claim a practical application or provide a useful, concrete and tangible result". Applicants note with appreciation, however, that the Official Action did indicate that Claims 1-31 were allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 were overcome. Applicants also appreciate the courtesies extended by the Examiner in the telephonic interview conducted on October 16, 2006 in which the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 was discussed as well as the foregoing amendments to the independent claims, which were understood to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

In this regard, independent Claims 1, 11, 17 and 25 have been amended to recite that instructions are provided to at least partially direct manufacture of the composite laminate based upon an arrangement of the plies of each zone. These instructions may be provided, for example, to an operator and/or to an automated or semi-automated manufacturing process in order to indicate the resulting arrangement of plies in each zone. Moreover, the amendment of independent Claims 1, 11, 17 and 25 to recite that instructions are provided to at least partially direct manufacture of the composite laminate highlights the practical application as well as the useful, concrete and tangible result provided by the claimed methods, apparatus and computer program product. As such, it is submitted that independent Claims 1, 11, 17 and 25, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are directed to statutory subject matter such that the rejection of Claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is therefore overcome.

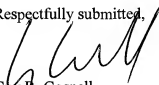
In view of the claim amendments and the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of

Appl. No.: 10/766,177  
Amdt. dated 12/22/2006  
Reply to Office Action of 9/26/2006  
Page 9

this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Guy R. Gosnell  
Registration No. 34,610

**Customer No. 00826**  
**ALSTON & BIRD LLP**  
Bank of America Plaza  
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000  
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000  
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

ELECTRONICALLY FILED USING THE EFS-WEB ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM OF THE  
UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE ON December 22, 2006 by Gwen Frickhoeffter.